

December 24, 1957

Dear Dr. Mukelā:

I have your letter of the 20th. Please let me assure you that I am most sympathetic to the urgency of your application.

From your publications and other evidence, I would be pleased to have you in my laboratory, especially as we are moving more and more into immunological questions ourselves. However, we face a serious difficulty in arranging accommodations.

I am still looking into this question, and hope to be able to make a definite response within one more week. However, I felt you would rather know the precise uncertainty immediately than simply wait for a reply.

Meanwhile, it would help if you could actually name the earliest practical date when you could actually arrive here, and could state whether you are interested in a one- or two-year's fellowship or either.

It will save some time also if I mention another possibility. I mentioned your problem to my former student Dr. Zinder, who is at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in N.Y., and who is doing some very interesting work in bacterial immunogenetics (the conversion of serotype by means of phage infection). He could not, of course, say immediately whether he would be able to accommodate you, but I mention the possibility so that you can give it some forethought in case the necessity arises. In that case, I can send him your documents directly, and I would ask you to instruct me whether you would consider this an acceptable alternative, in the even we cannot find the proper room for you.

However, I would suggest that we restrict this correspondence to one another until I can tell you whether you can come to the lab. here.

Thank you for your reprints— I enjoyed reading them.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical
Genetics